



MEMORANDUM

To: Parks Board Members

From: Jesus M. Olivares Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Date: November 9, 1999

Subject: Govalle Wastewater Tunnel Corrosion /Odor Control Project

The Water and Wastewater Utility needs to investigate whether the Govalle Wastewater tunnel, which runs under Colorado River Park, is experiencing deterioration due to corrosive chemicals in the line. The Utility plans to investigate the line throughout its 43,000 length; an existing access shaft in Colorado River Park will be one of the areas to be examined.

The Water and Wastewater Utility has requested permission to drill a test shaft next to the existing access shaft that is north of the new ballfields. The investigation and construction machinery will be confined to a .7 Acre fenced perimeter; this area includes the existing fenced access area. The investigation could take up to one year. When complete, the area will be restored; currently it is a grassy meadow with no trees. ^{1/4 ac.}

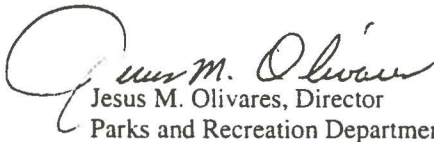
For the work to proceed, the Utility is requesting a use agreement for the .7 acre work area and an access corridor for construction vehicles to enter the park from Grove Drive. In the future, inspection vehicles will continue to use the access, thereby avoiding the new park road at Grove Boulevard.

If the tunnel is found to have substantial corrosion, the Utility will return to the Board to request permission to conduct the renovation.

The tunnel investigation will occur in an area where the Parks and Recreation Department plans to place a caretakers house to provide oversight to the park. The presence of a caretaker would benefit the work to be done by the Utility. Consequently, the Utility is willing to support the purchase and installation of a caretaker's house.

Recommendation

I recommend approval of a use agreement permitting the Water and Wastewater Utility to conduct investigations of the Govalle Tunnel in the immediate vicinity of the existing access shaft, and for permanent maintenance access to the .7 acre access area.


Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed Activities Between Water & Wastewater Utility Department and the Parks & Recreation Department in support of the Govalle Tunnel Odor/Corrosion Control Project

BACKGROUND

Water & Wastewater Department

The Govalle Tunnel is a Water & Wastewater Utility facility that transports wastewater from the downtown and central portions of the city to the South Austin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The tunnel, which was placed in service in 1988, is 8 feet in diameter, 43,000 feet in length and 40 to 100 feet below the ground surface. A portion of the tunnel runs through the Colorado River Park and has an existing drop shaft north of the new Montopolis Youth Sports Complex.

Nuisance odors released from the tunnel at drop shaft locations are an ongoing problem. Since wastewater nuisance odors typically contain gases that are corrosive to the construction materials of the tunnel, there was a concern about corrosion in the tunnel.

Limited investigations indicated that portions of the tunnel system may be experiencing significant deterioration due to corrosion. As a result of these findings it was determined that a detailed inspection should be performed in order to determine the extent of corrosion throughout the tunnel system, to ascertain the structural integrity of the tunnel, and develop a plan for corrective measures based on the results of the inspection. Since access to the tunnel is currently constrained, it was recommended that access shafts be installed at four sites along the tunnel including a site in the Colorado River Park.

Parks & Recreation Department

The Montopolis Youth Sports Complex has been recently opened in the Colorado River Park. There have been repeated and ongoing acts of vandalism in the park area. Budgetary provisions have been made to provide a caretaker for the area that should reduce incidences of vandalism.

ISSUES

Water & Wastewater Department

- Needs to build an access shaft in the Colorado River Park to the Govalle Tunnel to allow examination of the tunnel and facilitate required remediation
- Needs a land use agreement for additional property to facilitate construction of the access shaft, examination of the tunnel and implementation of any required remediation and for permanent access to the site

Parks & Recreation Department

- Has encountered repeated and ongoing acts of vandalism in Colorado River Park
- Has budgeted and will provide a caretaker to be on site
- Needs financial support for purchase of housing for caretaker

PROPOSAL

Water & Wastewater Department

- Will provide financial support for the purchase of housing to be placed on site and occupied by the caretaker to reduce vandalism in the park

Parks & Recreation Department

- Will provide land use agreement for additional property to facilitate construction of the access shaft, examination of tunnel and implementation of any required remediation and for permanent access to the site.



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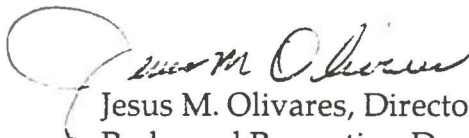
Subject: Gardens at Bull Creek Drainage Easement

The Parks Board has previously reviewed and approved the Gardens at Bull Creek flood control project that entails construction of an earthen dam on an upper tributary of Bull Creek. The dam will constrict the flow of the creek during floods and slowly release the water in order to mitigate flooding downstream. During the few hours water is impounded by the dam, creek water will form a temporary pond. In order to permit the project, a drainage easement is required for the pond area.

The Watershed Protection Department is requesting a drainage easement to cover the area to be inundated by floodwater during the 100-year storm. This area was illustrated on plans reviewed by the Board when you considered approving the project.

The Land and Facilities Committee reviewed this request November 2.

I recommend approval of a drainage easement to include the area covered by water in the 100-year storm.



Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department